

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-03 /100 W

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R 111559Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2040

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

NATO BRUSSELS 2763

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: ENRG, IEA, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN REACTION TO JUNE 30-JULY 1, 1975 IEA

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

1. MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REP COSTA (DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ENERGY AFFAIRS) GAVE EMBOFF HIS IMPRESSIONS OF IEA'S JUNE 30-JULY 1, 1975 GOVERNING BOARD (GB) MEETING, WHICH HE ATTENDED AS MEMBER ITALIAN DELEGATION.

2. COSTA CHARACTERIZED MEETING AS "NOT TOO PRODUCTIVE" AND SAID IEA, AS AN AGENCY, PAID "BIG PRICE FOR A RELATIVELY SMALL RESULT". IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER NOT TO HAVE DEMONSTRATED, FOR WORLD TO NOTE, DIFFERENCES EXISTING AMONG IEA MEMBERS ON ISSUES SUCH AS MINIMUM FLOOR PRICE (MFP) FOR OIL IMPORTS. GOI HAD BEEN AWARE THAT DISCUSSION OF DOCUMENT ON LONG-TERM COOPERATION WOULD INEVITABLY CREATE, RATHER THAN RESOLVE, PROBLEMS AT GB BECAUSE OF DIVERGENT POSITIONS OF IEA MEMBERS. THIS WAS PRIMARY REASON WHY GOI REPS TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS AT JUNE 28 ROME MEETING THAT DOCUMENT WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED PENDING PREPARATION NEW DRAFT. OUTCOME OF DISCUSSION INDICATED ITALIAN ASSESSMENT HAD BEEN CORRECT. RESULT IS SEEN BY MFA AS "STEP BACKWARD" IN IEA COOPERATION. THE JULY 2, 1975 (PRELIMINARY DRAFT) GB DECISION APPEARS TO WEAKEN THE MARCH 20, 1975 DECISION BY UNDERMINING THE POLITICAL UNITY EXPRESSED IN THE MARCH 20 DECISION.

3. FROM VIEWPOINT OF ITALY'S OWN ECONOMIC INTERESTS, COSTA SAID JULY 2 (PRELIMINARY DRAFT) GB DECISION WAS "GOOD FOR GOI", IF NOT FOR FUTURE OF IEA.

4. COSTA SPENT INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME REVIEWING BY NOW FAMILIAR ITALIAN POSITION ON MFP. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER MFP SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AN END IN ITSELF OR A MEANS TO AN END? IN ITALIAN VIEW, USG ATTACHES TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING MFP SINCE QUESTION IS HYPOTHETICAL IN ANY CASE: OPEC PRODUCERS WILL NOT PERMIT PRICE TO FALL TO SUCH A LEVEL. COSTA REMARKED THAT, IN ANY CASE, JAPANESE AND GERMAN GOVERNMENTS, AND POSSIBLY OTHERS, WERE NOT IN POSITION TO PROPOSE MFP TO PARLIAMENTS AT PRESENT.

5. COMMENT. COSTA'S PRESENTATION, OF COURSE, DESIGNED TO PUT  
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AS FAVORABLE AS POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION ON GOI ACTIONS/POSITIONS  
AT JUNE 30- JULY 1, 1975 GB MEETING.VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ENERGY, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JUL 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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